



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
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MINUTES

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
February 9, 2005

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Robert E. Cusack
Mr. John Grosvenor, AIA
Ms. Patrice O'Malley Hagan
Mr. Michael Hebert, NR Review Board
Mr. Karst Hoogeboom
Mr. Robert J. McKenna, representing Senator Stephen Alves
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon
Dr. Ronald Onorato
Mr. Frederick C. Williamson, Chairman & SHPO

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Sharon Allison, Senior Grants Manager
Mr. Jeffrey Emidy, National Register Assistant
Dr. Richard Greenwood, Principal Historian
Mr. Robert O. Jones, Senior Architectural Historian
Ms. Pamela Kennedy, Deputy Director
Mr. Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Joseph Dias, representing Mr. Frederick Vincent, Acting Director DEM
Dr. James Garman, NR Review Board
Mr. Robert Goff
Mr. John O'Brien, Chief of Statewide Planning
Dr. Patrick Malone
Dr. Patricia Rubertone
Dr. Daniel Snyder
State Building Commissioner
House Finance Committee

GUESTS

Ms. Melissa Duby, Newport Collaborative Architects

II. AGENDA

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM, Mr. Williamson, Chairman, presiding.

2. Minutes of December 8, 2004

On a motion by Ms. Hagan, seconded by Mr. McKenna, the Commission VOTED unanimously to approve the Minutes of December 8, 2004.

3. Executive Director's Report

a) Mr. Sanderson introduced Jeffrey Emidy who has recently been appointed National Register Assistant. Mr. Emidy has a Master's Degree in historic preservation from the University of Vermont and has worked as a preservation consultant.

b) Mr. Sanderson reported that the President's proposed Federal Fiscal Year 2006 Budget includes level funding for state historic preservation offices. The allocation for Rhode Island would be \$483,000.

c) Mr. Sanderson distributed State Fiscal Year 2004 final financial statements for the Commission's state, federal, and restricted receipt accounts.

d) Mr. Sanderson announced three up-coming Heritage programs:

Chinese New Year Celebrations, Saturday February 12

Multicultural Music Concert benefit for tsunami victims organized by India Museum & Heritage Society, Thursday February 17

Korean Lunar New Year Celebrations, Saturday February 19

4. National Register Review Board

Preliminary Approval

Bancroft House, "The Bluffs," Middletown

Mr. Grosvenor announced that he had a business interest in the property and therefore recused himself and did not participate in discussion and did not vote.

Ms. Duby presented information about the property. The house was built between 1893 and 1895. An architect has not been identified. The owner, John Chandler Bancroft (son of historian George Bancroft) was an amateur artist and acquaintance of artist John LaFarge and

architect Richard Morris Hunt. Mr. Hooegeboom and Dr. Onorato wondered if the house might have been designed by the owner. The shingled exterior is mostly intact; it retains a Japanese-inspired entrance canopy; several windows and picture windows have been added and an original south porch has been removed. Finely detailed interiors are largely intact in spite of recent use as multiple apartments. Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. McKenna, the Commission

VOTED preliminary approval for Bancroft House. Mr. Grosvenor was recorded as not voting.

Pawtuxet Dyeing Company Mill, Coventry

Ms. Kennedy presented information about the 1920s complex consisting of two mills, an office, and a large 1960s cinder block addition. The mill continued in use until the 1980s. The mill is an example of the early 20th-century development of specialized textile manufacturing operations as industry wide consolidations resulted in opportunities for smaller operations. As Rhode Island's 19th-century manufacturing economy continued into the 20th-century, Rhode Island became the most industrialized state in the country. Pawtuxet Dyeing Company is located across the river from Harris Village and is part of the historic Pawtuxet River industrial corridor. Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Ms. Hagan, the Commission unanimously

VOTED preliminary approval for Pawtuxet Dyeing Company Mill.

Christopher Rhodes Green House, Coventry

Mr. Emidy presented information about the 1882 house owned by a prominent local mill owner. Christopher Rhodes and his father operated the Clyde Print Works. The elaborate shingled house with carriage house has well-preserved interiors and is one of several large homes constructed in rural areas for mill owners and managers of nearby factories. Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. Grosvenor, the Commission unanimously

VOTED preliminary approval for Christopher Rhodes Green House.

Weekapaug Inn, Westerly

Ms. Kennedy presented information about the seaside resort. The original building was destroyed during the 1938 hurricane, and the current Inn dates from 1939. It was designed by MIT trained architect Ralph Doan who also designed the reinforced concrete Motormart Garage in Boston. The Inn is a steel-frame structure covered with wood shingles. Although its construction date falls toward the end of the period of seaside hotel development in Rhode Island, the current Weekapaug Inn represents and carries on an important aspect of Rhode Island's history as a summer resort destination. Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. Hooegeboom, the Commission unanimously

VOTED preliminary approval for Weekapaug Inn.

5. Approval of Certified Local Government Grants for 2005

Ms. Kennedy presented applications for CLG funding. She noted that a large number of good applications were received this year, and she described the staff review process and evaluation scoring for each project. The list of applications, a brief description of each project, and recommended funding is attached to these Minutes. Commissioners Hagan, Grosvenor, and Williamson did not participate in discussion or vote on the application submitted by Preserve Rhode Island, Inc. Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. McKenna, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to approve CLG grant totaling \$48,500 in accordance with the staff funding recommendations.

6. Other Business: There was no other business.

7. Next meeting date: The next regular meeting of the Commission will be Wednesday, March 9, 2005.

8. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Minutes recorded by,

Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director